Setting up of SEZs in Tamil Nadu

873. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Approval is considering setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at various locations in the country;

(b) if so, the locations under considerations in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the incentive and facilities likely to be given to the proposed SEZs?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Approvals have been granted for setting up of the SEZs in Chennai, Sriperumbudur, Coimbatore, Siruseri and Kanchipuram. Proposals have been received for setting up of the SEZs in Siruseri, Chennai, Kanceepuram, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri etc.

(c) The major incentives offered to units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to promote exports include duty free import/ domestic procurement of goods, exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies made from Domestic Tariff Area, exemption from service tax and 100% income tax exemption for the first 5 years, 50% for the next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for the next 5 years.

Ban on export of Iron-Ore

874. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel producers and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) have demanded total ban on export of iron-ore;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the total export of iron-ore during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that other countries where iron-ore deposits are available, export only the finished products; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the above requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) Organisations like Indian Steel Alliance, TISCO and Essar Steel have opposed export of iron ore.

(c) The total export of iron ore during the last three years, year-wise is as follows:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)
2003-04	62.58
2004-05	78.15
2005-06 (Prov.)	89.27

(d) No, Sir. The major iron ore producing countries of the world, namely, Australia, Brazil and South Africa are exporting a majority of their production as iron ore rather than as finished products.

(e) Does not arise.

Re-opening of closed tea gardens in Darjeeling

875. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-open the closed tea gardens in Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) The Government of India and the Tea Board have been facilitating discussions between the managements of the closed tea gardens and their bankers with a view to arrive at a settlement for re-opening of the closed tea gardens in various States of the country. However, it is for the management of the individual closed gardens to work out the settlement with their bankers for re-opening the tea gardens.

ILL effects of weather on Coffee Growers

876. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adverse whether conditions had severely affected the productivity of the coffee estates in the past;